

A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION

California Powder Works
Blown Up.

FOURTEEN PEOPLE ARE KILLED

The Mutilated Remains of the Dead
Scattered Along the Road for
a Mile.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—A terrific report and congestion, which was distinctly felt all through the city and at towns around the bay for a distance of forty miles, was at first believed to be caused by earthquake, but proved to be an explosion in the nitro-glycerine and mixing house, storehouse and gun cotton departments of the California Powder Works at Pine, across the bay, this morning. The cruse of the glycerine house, four in number, and the foreman of the mixing house were killed, as were also nine Chinese working in the latter department. The explosion occurred in the nitro-glycerine house at 10:40 a.m. and was caused by a Chinese dropping a can of the explosive. The cause cannot be definitely ascertained, however, as all connected with the building are dead. There were 200 Chinese in the adjacent mixing room and at the sound of the explosion all ran, and the majority escaped. The force of the explosion was tremendous. Huge trees were thrown into the bay, a distance of half a mile, and nitro-glycerine tanks weighing ten tons each, are now lying 300 yards from the scene. Two hundred and eighteen parts of the mutilated remains of the dead are scattered along the road for a mile.

The nitro-glycerine house had gone up, then the mixing house and storehouse and gun cotton departments followed. The nitro-glycerine house of which not even a vestige now remains was a three-story frame structure, 260x50. It contained 8000 pounds of nitro-glycerine, and 2000 pounds of Hercules powder. A remarkable feature of the explosion is the fact that although the building contained 100 pounds of Hercules powder completely crushed, its contents are intact. In all, 10,000 pounds of explosive went up with a roar and a sheet of flames.

The fatalities are as follows: Killed—Clare Johnson, foreman of glycerine house; and D. A. Dean, both of Pine; H. L. Minch, Orlond; C. Venegas, Martinez; W. D. Taylor, foreman of mixing house, and nine Chinese.

PINE, May 21.—All the men in the nitro-glycerine house, except the foreman of their business, and Harry Minch, was at one time superintendent of the whole plant. From the position of the bodies found it would seem that the cause of the explosion was in the washing department of the nitro-glycerine house, since the bodies of Johnson and Minch were intact while those in the lower part of the building, or the place where nitro-glycerine is washed, were blown all to pieces; in fact, but small portions of their bodies have yet been recovered.

Twenty-five men were gathered together in a room, endeavoring to gather some remains that would secure the identification of the victims. The tremendous force of the explosion can be observed on all sides. The nitro-glycerine house was built in the side of a hill, which is about 300 yards north of the railroad station. Great trees near by were twisted and torn as if rent by a stroke of lightning. In all directions the terrific violence of the explosion is manifest.

All over the surrounding fields scattered in a handily confused bits of human remains, telling the horrible story of the disaster.

Men in all directions are searching only to find particles of the bodies too small for any purpose. Large sacks have been used to gather and hold the remains which are being slowly collected. It seems impossible to secure more than enough to identify two bodies.

HYDRAULIC MINING.

Illegal Work Being Done by Chinamen Under Lease.

SACRAMENTO, May 21.—The executive committee of the State Anti-Dolius Association met here today, Chairman Morrison of the Sacramento Board of Supervisors presiding.

The association's watchmen have reported that there is considerable mining going on through sections of Plumas, Nevada and Placer counties, some mining that would secure the identification of the victims. The tremendous force of the explosion can be observed on all sides. The nitro-glycerine house was built in the side of a hill, which is about 300 yards north of the railroad station. Great trees near by were twisted and torn as if rent by a stroke of lightning. In all directions the terrific violence of the explosion is manifest.

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Acting Superintendent Pollock and an Associated Press reporter who was at the scene of the disaster: "This is the worst explosion I have ever seen. I have seen many, but this is the worst. I can utterly fail to account for it, and cannot advance any theory as to its cause. The explosion has shaken up all the buildings in the vicinity. It is impossible to tell how much damage has been done; but I am not looking for damage yet. I am trying to get together the remains of the poor victims. We are very careful regarding the managing of the nitro-glycerine house, and have put down strict rules for the purpose. The Chinese are not allowed to enter it."

San Francisco Races.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—A few know-ones made a killing today, though not a favorite won. Fortuna opened at 30 to 1 and those on the inside made haste to get their money on and the odds went down to 15. Fortuna won easily. Jerome S. and Boreas were regarded as such good things that the bookmakers refused to take any money on them. Both were defeated.

Five furlongs, selling—The Drummer 1, Jerome S. 2, Prince Devine 3, Time, 1:03 1/4.

Short six furlongs, selling—Mamie Scott 1, McFarlane 2, Gypsette Gelling 3, Time, 1:13 1/2.

Six furlongs, selling—Fortuna 1, Mt. Air 2, Boreas 3, Time, 1:14.

One mile, selling—Bernardo 1, Don Cesar 2, Commission 3, Time, 1:43 1/2.

Attempt to Break Jail.

SAN BERNARDINO, May 21.—John Frazer, an inmate of the county jail was this morning detected in cutting his way out of the widow with the file. As Frazer was arrested, for burglary and only yesterday attempted to serve a term of the day, it is supposed he must be wanted elsewhere for a more serious offense or he would not have attempted to break jail.

British Sealing Schooner Seized.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—Several days before the Topeka left the revenue cutter Corwin seized the British sealing schooner Shandy for violating the sealing laws and brought her to Sitka. She was turned over to the British cruiser Pheasant, who sent her to Victoria. This is the first seizure this season.

The City of Sacramento Sued.

SACRAMENTO, May 21.—W. E. Henry filed a complaint in the superior court today against the city of Sacramento to recover \$30,255 for violation of a contract to supply the city with clear water.

Tax Gatherers Murdered.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—The Times has a dispatch from Tehachapi which says that the lieutenant governor and six officials were murdered and mutilated at Kitchener during the disturbance due to the premature collection of taxes. The governor escaped.

The World's Shooting Record.

CARSON, May 21.—The Carson guards deny that the Marysville shooting team hold the world's record. They claim that a team of fifty guards made a score of 2000 November 11, 1894.

ALLEGED SICKNESS AT IONE.

Governor Budd Sends a Physician to Investigate.

SMYRNA, May 21.—Dr. Ruggles, who was sent to Ione by Governor Budd to investigate the alleged epidemic of scarlet fever, pneumonia and typhoid fever, which was reported to have broken out there, returned today. In the course of an interview the Doctor said:

"Upon my arrival at Ione I found that Governor Budd had ordered some tents from Sacramento, which went up on the train with me. As soon as I arrived Mr. Preston, one of the directors of the school, represented that the condition of affairs there was terrible, lots of scarlet fever and typhoid fever, and that something must be done. Well, I told the directors that the thing is, go I understand, that the directors want to get a sanatorium house and \$5000 more for hospital purposes. Upon my arrival I found just one case of scarlet fever and that was away in one corner of the building, isolated from every person except of course the master. The school, I might say seven, are still another part—all separate from the main dormitories and each separate from the other."

STOCKTON ELECTION.

A. P. A. ELECT MOST OF THEIR TICKET.

The Election a Surprise All Around and Everybody Takes the Result Good Naturaed.

STOCKTON, May 21.—The A. P. A.'s controlled the city election today, electing most of their ticket. They elected H. N. Haggard for mayor, whose plurality is 35; G. A. Bidwell for superintendent of streets a plurality of 25; F. M. Bowes as assessor, 32 plurality; J. S. Haines for treasurer, 718 plurality. Haines also received the Republican vote, they having no nomination. The A. P. A. also elected J. McNeil as city clerk, 30 plurality; H. T. Compton as sheriff, 35 plurality; and one councilman, J. J. Quinn, by 16 plurality. The Republicans elected five library trustees, who also received the A. P. A. vote. The Republicans elected H. O. Johnson and G. J. Jones school directors without opposition. The election was a surprise all around, but went off without a hitch.

Reward Paid to Bogard's Family.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—The family of Sheriff J. J. Bogard of Tehama county, who was killed in the train robbery at Whiskeyland, has been paid by the Southern Pacific Company \$5000 as a reward for killing Meltitus, one of the robbers.

LA GASCOGNE OVERDUE.

THE STEAMER SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED SUNDAY.

A Passenger List of 144 Persons. The Opinion is That Her Engines Have Failed Again.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

"Of course," replied Senator Morgan, "congress will have to accept the decision, but an amendment to the constitution is always possible."

Senator Fairbank of West Virginia said he thought there was no danger of an extra session of congress being called.

"Even with the loss of income there is no agreed upon constitution of the treasury. It has today \$9,000,000 in addition to the gold reserves, and I am sure, that will be sufficient to last until the meeting of congress. The country will not suffer as much from a lack of legislation as it would from a longer rule of congress."

Members of the administration who are undoubtedly fully acquainted with the President's views and purposes, state undoubtedly that an extra session of congress is out of the question. Not so the less, however, of an amendment to the constitution.

The treasury has now a balance of \$187,000,000, which is available for all purposes, and this amount is more likely to be increased than diminished during the next three months.

It is argued that the approaching fruit-canning season is certain to make a highly increased demand for sugar, which, owing to the small supply on hand, must be imported. The revenues from sugar are confidently expected to reach \$100,000,000, and this amount will be added to the large amounts which will begin to come in from renewed liquor business, will largely augment the revenue even should the customs not meet present expectations.

All licensees on June 30th, each year, and judging from last year's revenues, the receipt of this year from every source will exceed \$60,000,000, which may be paid within the next forty days.

In the next few days the exports will be held down to the lowest point possible, and the amount of sugar will be increased by 100,000,000 pounds.

Chief Engineer Storck is making up his second party of surveyors. They will number ten or twelve persons, and will be ready to leave Thursday.

NOTICE TO RELEASERS AND VENARABLES.

FOR SALE—A YOUNG MAN FROM 17 TO 20, to whom are loaned or given for particular services, \$1000 to \$1500.

WANTED—A YOUNG MAN OF HONOR AND INTEGRITY, UNPREDICATED OR CLERK IN ANY RESPECT, REFERENCES. Address, Box 1016.

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THE FRESNO MORNING REPUBLICAN.

Fresno, Fresno County, California.

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Largest Circulation. - The Most News.

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Weekly Republican, three months, by mail, 3.00

Weekly Republican, per month, by carrier, 1.00

CELEBRATE THE FOURTH.

Fresno should not fail to properly observe the approaching anniversary of American independence. During the past four years there has been no celebration of the national holiday in this city. The people, to be sure, have joined to some extent with those of neighbouring towns and hamlets in commemorating the day, but aside from this the ever glorious occasion has gone entirely without recognition. This is altogether wrong. It is both unpatriotic and unbusiness-like. It evinces a lethargic state of the public mind in regard to events that should be near the heart of every citizen. It also takes money out of the town and a considerable part of it outside the county. From the standpoint of the man who reveres the memory of the patriotic founders of the republic, it is wrong; from a purely business standpoint it is foolish. This is a view of the matter which would seem to appeal to the majority. If the patriotic are few those who are influenced by business considerations are many. The general public is evidently in favor of the celebration, and it only remains for public spirited citizens to take the lead in order to give shape to a public sentiment.

Committees representing the Chamber of Commerce, the Hundred Thousand Club and the public in general have been appointed, but up to the present time they have apparently not arrived at any definite plan of action. Perhaps the responsibility has been too much divided, and one committee is waiting on the other. At any rate decisive movement for a celebration is being too long delayed. One cause of delay appears to be a difference of opinion as to whether enough money should be raised to bring the Third brigade here to take part in the celebration. A military parade would be an attractive feature, and would bring many visitors from abroad, but the question should not be permitted to interfere with the movement for a celebration. If it be deemed advisable to raise the amount of money necessary for that purpose, well and good; if not, let the lesser amount be raised and preparations go forward accordingly.

While a military parade is a desirable feature, it is not essential to a proper celebration of the Fourth. At a nominal expense an attractive style parade can be arranged and other inexpensive attractions provided. In a recent issue of the REPUBLICAN a correspondent made some suggestions in regard to a program of literary exercises to be given in the evening, which would in themselves be a drawing card. If properly carried out, and with a display of fireworks for the benefit of those who prefer skyrockettes, all would be pleased with the concluding events of a day made otherwise attractive as the managers of the celebration should see fit.

Flush times or hard times, military or non-military, every American community owes to itself, and especially to its youth, the future citizens of the republic, to keep alive the fire of patriotism by a proper tribute to the founders of our free government upon each recurring anniversary of our independence. Fresno has too long been remiss in this particular.

THE FOUNDATION KNOCKED OUT.

The collapse of the income tax leaves the government in such a condition with regard to its revenue that the necessity of calling another extra session of congress may again arise. The deficit resulting from the present revenue system is increasing at the rate of about \$5,000,000 per month, without any reasonable prospect of better results. The income tax was actually the foundation laid by the free traders upon which to build their beautiful structure of "tariff reform," and now that the foundation has been kicked from beneath the wobbly, sugar-cemented superstructure, it must necessarily sink of its own weight into hopeless of collapse.

Speculation is already rife in the ranks of the administration as to ways and means by which the inadequate revenues may be increased, and the program appears to be to fill the aching void by an increased revenue tax on beer and a higher duty on imported tea. Just why such articles of universal use as tea and beer should be selected for increased taxation, while imported wine and other luxuries of the rich escape any share of the burden, is one of the mysteries, deep and dark, which shroud the work of "tariff reform." If tea and beer are luxuries, and hence especially subject to taxation, they are the luxuries of the poor, and could quite advantageously to that class be exempt from special taxation by transferring the burden to some of the distinctive luxuries of the rich.

It is a very serious dilemma into which the government has been plunged, at any rate, by bungling extraordinary with the question of revenue, and not a little embarrassment and discomfiture is bound to result before a satisfactory adjustment of this matter can be reached. Possibly another bond issue will be found on the program as a temporary remedy for the income tax fiasco.

It would fit in very nicely just before the close of the exclusive option now held on government securities by the bond-buying syndicate.

A.J.W.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

The following real estate transfers were recorded yesterday:

W. H. Williams and W. H. Williams to the A. S. Williams Company, right of way.

William Sebille to L. A. Dodge, six lots in Section 6, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 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In fact everything new except the prices, which are our old, old figures; the LOWEST IN THE STATE.

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1027, 1029 and 1031 I Street, Fresno.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

The Chamber of Commerce is in earnest.

MONEY FOR THE VALLEY ROAD

Harry Sherwood Makes a Practical Suggestion. The Zante Currant Again.

The meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the new quarters of that body last night was literally and truly "big with the fate of Caesar and Rome."

What it meant was simply and emphatically that Fresno is to be in line with other valley towns on the principle of working as well as talking in favor of a competing railroad.

Among those present were Drs. Aiken, Pedlar, Bowell and W. T. Martin; W. H. Thomas, Louis Elstuck, Louis and Leopold Gundelinger, Judge Nervino, A. R. Briggs, John McMullin, G. J. Woodward, Harry Sherwood, Fulton G. Gandy, General T. J. Hamlin, W. G. Ulrich, A. J. Hodder, John Reichenbach, W. G. Holstein and many others.

The first business before the chamber was a desire expressed by several members for a suitable recognition of the hospitality extended to the organization during the recent visit of the Valley Road directors to Maltene.

On motion of A. R. Briggs a committee of three was appointed to draft a suitable acknowledgment of Mr. Maltner's hospitality. Drs. Briggs, Louis Gundelinger and Julian Nechman were on the committee.

The next matter for consideration was the celebration of the Fourth of July. Chairman Goldstein made a patriotic speech and declared himself in favor of celebrating. After some little discussion the matter was referred to a committee of three to co-operate with the committee already designated by the Hundred Thousand Club and the citizens' committee.

For the call for triple business, Louis Gundelinger asked the chairman to lay before the meeting the substance of the demands made by the directors of the Valley road on the citizens of Fresno.

Chairman Goldstein said he fully recognized that the time had come for all to quit talk and begin work. Director Wadsworth had put the case very plainly. The directors wanted sufficient ground for a depot, shops, switches and all the facilities required for a great central railroad, but could not agree fully with the business. At least, for the time being, of land might be wanted for this purpose, and the right would have to be had near the downtown portion of the city as possible. The speaker said he recognized that it would be a hard task to find what was wanted, and to raise the money to buy it, but it seemed to him that the money could be raised and must be raised. The first question to be discussed was, whether the Chamber of Commerce should handle the matter or whether a public meeting should be called.

Harry Sherwood submitted a proposition for the consideration of the meeting. The money needed was assumed to be in the neighborhood of \$50,000. He had procured from the assessor's office a list of 500 names of large taxpayers and he was satisfied that 200 of these could contribute \$250 apiece. He suggested that a committee of five be appointed by this chamber to handle the matter. He himself also said that members of the Chamber of Commerce would be willing to qualify as a bondsmen that the money was put to the proper use.

Dr. Pedler believed in getting the people interested, and not troubling this matter too closely. He thought a joint committee of fifteen, the One Hundred Thousand Club taking part, would be the proper thing.

W. G. Ulrich recommended obtaining bids from property owners on duplex sites, etc.

Louis Gundelinger deprecated any discussion that would cause the main issue to be lost sight of. The meeting should not part without taking some decisive step in the railroad matter.

John Reichenbach thought the thing should be turned over to the people and a mass meeting be called.

A. R. Briggs and three had been difficult to convince, so that the railroad directors were gathering them to state their positive requirements. Mr. Storrs, the engineer, had said the directors were entitled to leave the matter of entrance and exit to the people of Fresno, and also the depot site, provided there was sufficient space and it was otherwise convenient for traffic. He himself believed the people of this county are prepared to raise \$100,000 if necessary to carry out the project of a competing railroad through this country.

John Reichenbach thought that the Chamber might insist this evening as regarded the Valley road.

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